66 YEARS OF DX-CELLENCE...

...CLUB NEWSLETTER EST. 1947

Southern California DX Club Newsletter

MARCH 2015

The Southern California DX Club is a group of dedicated men and women active in the amateur radio community who enjoy communicating over the air with other radio amateurs around the world.

The SCDXC strongly supports the DX Code of Conduct. Please visit their website:

www.dx-code.org

This newsletter is published monthly and released to club members around the first of each month. Amateur and DX related letters, news and pictures are welcome and will be published as time and space permit.

Articles may be republished with recognition of the author and the club. Reuse of copyrighted materials require the original author's permission.

Any questions regarding this newsletter or its articles should be addressed to the Editor, Diana, AI6DF, at:

ai6df@scdxc.org

Club meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM except April, June and December.

Please check the club web site for events and details at:

http://www.scdxc.org

If you are in the area please say hello on our repeater:

W6AM/R 145.48, (-) PL 100.0

"If you need him get in there and work him"

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From the Desk of the President

George Jacob, N6VNI
2015 President – SCDXC
N6VNI@scdxc.org

The month of February is almost come and gone.

The second club meeting of the New Year was a total success: a head-count was taken and we had close to 60 members in attendance. And since it was Valentine's Day all the ladies at the meeting received a red long-stem carnation and a bag of candy. I want to thank Skip, Rich, Jerry and Wayne for passing out the carnations to the ladies. You should have seen the look on their faces when I called up them up to help out.

Would you believe by writing a small email and having it sent to the membership we had 41 people attend a pre-meeting dinner at the local Sizzler Restaurant? That count was up by ten members over last month. Can we do better next month? At the meeting Mel K6SY told me about a new restaurant that opened across the street from WEMS called KING KEBAB AND BAKERY. Mel said it can seat 40 customers, so this might be an option when we get burned out on the Sizzler.

Dennis Kidder W6DQ was our guest speaker, and once again Dennis was outstanding. Dennis talked about the transmitter dismantling project at the Voice of America's former Delano site and where this Collins unit will be heading for permanent display. Dennis thank you so very much.

I spoke to the membership about two upcoming DXpeditions that need financial support. The first one is in November / December 2015 going to Heard Island VK0EK Australia and the second one is the Intrepid-DX Group and they will be going to South Sandwich Island and South Georgia Island in January / February 2016. Both of these groups can use additional financial support. Just a reminder that the Southern California DX Club made a sizable donation to the Northern California DX Foundation at the DX convention last year. Two announcements from these DXpeditions appear elsewhere in this month's SCDXC Newsletter.

The next club meeting will be on March 12th at WEMS, aka Mel's Place. At this time I can't tell you who our guest speaker will be, because I really do not know. You will have to read the Vice President's article to find out.

April is just around the corner. So if you have not registered for the annual DX convention in Visalia, CA. you still have time to register.

That's about it for now. Looking forward to the next meeting and another great turn out.

73

De

George Jacob N6VNI
SCDXC President. ◆

George, N6VNI

Treasurer's Report

Club financial information is available on request. Contact the Treasurer.

Officer Guidelines

The SCDXC's Officers Guidelines are available on our website. See hyperlink below.

Code of Conduct

SCDXC endorses the **DX Code of Conduct**

Membership

SCDXC membership is open to all radio amateurs interested in DXing. Full Membership is only available to those residing in 11 Southern California counties who have earned DXCC or WAZ. Associate Members are also welcomed.

Dues are $24 annually (+$6 for each additional family member.) An application form appears in this newsletter and on our website. For additional membership information and information about the SCDXC visit our website at:

http://www.scdxc.org/

Vice President's Corner

Doug Millar, K6JEY
2015 SCDXC Vice President
drzarkof56@yahoo.com

Doug, K6JEY

It was a great meeting last month. Dennis' talk was very well researched and well presented. It was also good to have some knowledgeable broadcast folks in the audience.

Next month the program will be done by a group of three headed by Carl WU6D and present the subtleties of operating on 160m.

Many thanks to Jerry for bringing his very pretty classic RCA microphone for us to use at the meeting. What a treat. He has promised to keep them coming as he has a good collection. We will keep featuring different microphones each meeting and then have a comprehensive talk later in the year.

Thanks also to those who contributed to the drawing out of their own stores. If you would like to contribute something interesting or useful please do so. It makes the drawings more interesting and gives us a few more prizes than we normally would have. Finally, many thanks to the members who offered the use of their stations to others for DXing a rare one, including the WEMS station.

Keep working 'em.

Doug K6JEY ◆

So, which sounds better? Jay, K6RIY, speaks into the classic RCA 77DX ribbon broadcast mike (left) and the current China-made Cascade Victor ribbon condenser mike (right) at the start of SCDXC's February meeting. ◆

PHOTO: DOUG MILLAR, K6JEY

At Our Upcoming Meeting…

"Working 160-Meters"

Carl Gardenias, WU6D, leads a presentation at SCDXC's March 12th meeting about working the 160-meter band. The "top-band" offers plenty of challenges, both technically and operationally. Carl has the real estate to make 160-meter operation highly practical, but even smaller antennas can enjoy considerable success.

Don't miss our March 12th meeting.

Did you know?

- 160-meters is the oldest amateur radio band and at one time the most frequently used?
- 160-meters now occupies 1.810-2.000 MHz in ITU Region 1, but in the rest of the world is 10 kHz wider from 1.800-2.000 MHz?
- High-power LORAN navigation stations became primary on 160-meters starting in 1942, heavily impacting amateur operation with a strong "buzz-saw" noise until being phased-out in the 1980's?
- The propagation characteristics affecting 160-meter operation still aren't entirely understood?
- 160-meter amateur radio contests are some of the most challenging to participate in?

This year's CQ WW 160-Meter SSB Contest runs from 2200 UTC February 27 until 2200 UTC March 1. Your SCDXC Newsletter editor has intensely operated in this contest since 2011 from Catalina Island during the Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club's annual Islands On The Air DXpedition. The rig there only runs 100 watts—for several years into a simple 256-foot wire dipole just 14-feet above ground; more-recently into a 31' shortened vertical built by Ray Day, N6HE. Not ideal antennas, but we still do fairly well in the contest.

Here's why, in my opinion, the CQ WW 160-Meter SSB contest is perhaps the toughest phone contest you will face (your opinions are welcome too):

- Very high noise floor compared to other bands (both atmospheric noise and antenna limitations, plus the factors listed below).
- No where else to go if band conditions are bad: contest confined to 160-meters.
- Limited spectrum available: the contest is mostly across just 100 kHz (1.810-1.910 MHz)—very limiting for a phone contest. No other major SSB contest has so many players contending for such a small sliver of spectrum.
- You'll find a lot of "alligators" here: big mouths (with linear amps) get their signal out, but small ears to listen for you and others.

— Diana, AI6DF

Editorial: Is a $1.0 million DXpedition in our future?

Diana Feinberg, AI6DF
Editor – SCDXC Newsletter
AI6DF@scdxc.org

Pages 11 and 12 of this month's SCDXC Newsletter ask your support for the 2015 –2016 Heard Island VK0EK DXpedition. We hope you consider it because the DX community really needs to ramp-up support for VK0EK to materialize. The VK0EK budget is projected at $800,000, not including participant travel expenses to and within western Australia. These participants alone will pay half the budget. But the VK0EK DXpedition cost will easily exceed $900,000 after all expenses are factored (some expenses also borne by a concurrent scientific expedition). Suddenly we must consider a new threshold: "Is there a $1.0 million DXpedition in our future?"

When Don Greenbaum, N1DG, presented his analysis of DXpedition costs at the 2012 Dayton Hamvention the six "Southern Ocean" DXpeditions he analyzed had budgets from $160,000 to $475,000—the range then for 3Y0X (Peter I Is., 2006); FT5XO (Kerguelen Is., 2005); VK0IR (Heard Is, 1997); VP8GEO (South Georgia Is. 2008); VP8ORK (South Orkney Is., 2011); and VP8THU (South Sandwich Islands, 2002).

"Cost per QSO"	Analysis by Donald Greenbaum, N1DG, 2012 Dayton Hamvention http://www.ncdxf.org/misc/N1DG-DXpeditioncosts-Dayton2012.ppt			2014 actual	2016 estimated	2015-2016 estimated
DXpedition Type ▶	**"Fly-In"** 5 DXpeditions	**"Semi-Remote"** 9 DXpeditions	**"Southern Oceans"** 6 DXpeditions	**FT5ZM** Amsterdam Is.	South Sandwich / Georgia Is.	**VK0EK** Heard Island
Average Budget/ Actual or Est..	$43,000	$145,000	$323,000	$450,000	$425,000	$800,000
Largest Budget	$90,000	$327,000	$475,000	--	--	--
Smallest Budget	$17,000	$54,000	$160,000	--	--	--
Cost per QSO	**$0.72**	**$1.37**	**$4.30**	**$2.72**	**n/a**	**$4.00-$8.00 (??)**
% of Budget paid by Team	66%	58%	63%	51%	n/a	50%+
Operating Days	16	13	12	18	16	21

As many know, the 2014 Amsterdam Island FT5ZM DXpedition had a $450,000 budget. As shown in this Newsletter, the upcoming 2016 South Sandwich / South Georgia Islands DXpedition whose team includes our Arnie Shatz, N6HC, has a projected budget of $425,000 and also deserves your support.

But in the final analysis I believe the most important number to watch should be each DXpedition's "Cost per QSO." FT5ZM achieved an estimated $2.72 cost per QSO (based on 165,000 contacts and reported $450,000 budget.) VK0EK, with a budget of $800,000+ would need to make an unlikely 294,000 contacts to equal FT5ZM's $2.72 cost per QSO. To reach the $4.30 average QSO cost that Don N1DG calculated for Southern Oceans Dxpeditions the 2015-2016 Heard Island team would still need to achieve 186,000 QSOs. If the Heard Island DXpedition just works its current goal of at least 100,000 QSO's, their cost per QSO nears $8.00.

If trends continue there may well be a $1.0 million budget for a future Southern Ocean DXpedition. But the DX community will need to decide whether the expected Cost per QSO represents the best funding alternative relative to so many other DXpedition needs.◆

A Letter to the Editor

February 1, 2015

Editor: Southern California DX Club Newsletter

The Club Publication is looking great, a tribute to recent editors who have brought color and content, making an absorbing and interesting read.

I also expended a lot of valuable time and watts trying to work EP6T. The expedition was only strong enough at my location – to make a QSO possible – in a short window on forty meters. I tried to be there every morning at the same time for two weeks. My life is busy, I'm teaching and writing a dissertation, and I tried other times and bands, but this was my best possibility.

I don't believe that QRM and miscalling are due to cognitive diminishment within the ranks of ageing hams. Hams are not getting older – the mean has dropped from the 60's to the 50's (Website: F1JXQ.com). Older DX'ers are more skillful in general and know how to finesse pile-ups. They have worked the "rare ones," and will hopefully, lay back in the melee. SCDXC legends W6AM and W6HX were there, right at the beginning, with monstrous signals to snatch a trophy "Q," but then, they quickly went away.

Back in the 1950's "Old Man Pillersdorf," who lived a block away from me, was lucky to live out his golden years. His neighbor poked a shotgun through his basement window and put a tight spread of birdshot into a pair of hot tungsten filament 250t's during the Ed Sullivan Show.

Problems that plague rare expeditions are not, I believe, age-related. Mr. Pillersdorf met with is fellow geezers on Sunday nights to discuss hernias and politics. DX wasn't his forte. Radio in general, for instance, CB, tends to attract a culture of neglected, immature persons who seek anonymous attention. Knowing that a rare expedition may have thousands of listeners is a great temptation.

Impatience is a factor – it's often best to wait while strong stations work the expedition. We have to be aware of how the pile-up sounds on the other end and know that the strongest stations they are hearing will be worked first. Take a break, get a cabernet and read the newsletter.

I'm not so critical of my colleagues who overlook the split – sometimes, QRM or QSB causes us to miss the direction. These calls are on the "off-beat" – generally when the DX station is not transmitting. It's the responders that make the situation worse – the "Up…UP" covers the DX station.

Most importantly, I believe, the problem is silence. When there is a long silence between transmissions from the expedition, multiple calls and horrible QRM ensue. Listen to Martti, OH2BH: "Who is the 'L'?" "Who has the number '2'?" He forces you to make quick calls and listen more. Even if he can't pick anything out of the pile-up, a random letter or number will tame and lighten the herd.

I am currently pledging Mr. Pillersdorf's fraternity, but I believe that the pursuit of DX is actually improving my cognitive skills. CW, in particular, is a great cross-brain exercise, and the delicate art of pile-up timing and positioning is a skill. As a codger who has a few of the rare ones in the geezer-freezer, I can hold off a few cycles to let you young-uns reel in a new one. I hope my esteemed colleagues do the same.

Harvey Laidman, W8DX ◆

Letters to the Editor: Please email to ai6df@scdxc.org anything you want to say to the club membership. Letters are subject to abridgement. Please be considerate of your fellow members when writing your thoughts.

SCDXC's February 12th Meeting...in Pictures

Left: No actual emergency here, but Doug, K6JEY, using the RCA 77DX (left) and Cascade Victor (right) ribbon condenser microphones..

Below: Dennis Kidder, W6DQ, speaking to a large audience at our February 12th meeting about extracting the Collins 821-A 250 KW transmitter from the Voice of America's Delano, CA, site.

PHOTOS: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

SCDXC's February 12th Meeting...in Pictures

Top photo: A tube is carefully removed from the VOA's 250 KW Collins 821-A at Delano. The PA and modulator tubes each weigh 95 pounds.

The entire transmitter was dismantled in about 10 days and trucked to Bloomfield, NY, for re-assembly and display at the Antique Wireless Association Museum.

The entire transmitter installed at Delano weighed 22 tons and was 20 feet tall.

Bottom photo: Dennis Kidder, W6DQ (left), displays the console power meter that he and his teammates extracted from the Collins 821-A transmitter at the Voice of America's Delano site. This is believed to be the last Collins 821-A in existence.

PHOTOS: DIANA FEINBERG, AI6DF

Tidbits...

Field Checking of QSL Cards by N6QQ and N6HC

QSL cards for new DXCC awards and endorsements may be checked by an approved DXCC Card Checker. This program applies to any DXCC award for an individual or station. Awards available can be found in Section I: Basic Rules, **Rule 1.**

1) Entities Eligible for Field Checking:

With an exception for 160 meters, cards for all current and deleted entities dating back to November 15, 1945 can be checked. Cards for 160 Meters can only be checked by card checkers who currently hold an active 160 Meter DXCC. Check out the complete list of **DXCC 160 Meter Card Checkers.**

CQ AWARDS...
CQ Awards except 160 Meter WAZ, Digital WAZ, 6 Meter, Satellite, EME and 5BWAZ endorsements and new 5BWAZ applications with 170 or more zones.

Both Arnie, N6HC, and John, N6QQ, can check cards. If you live in Orange County, Arnie would be happy to check cards for both ARRL and CQ. If would like to contact N6QQ, call 562-404-1112 or **n6qq@msn.com** ◆

2nd edition of "New DXer's Handbook" available for free download

The 2nd edition of The New DXer's Handbook by Bryce Anderson, K7UA, is now available for free downloading from the author's website at:

http://www.k7ua.com/uploads/4/9/9/0/4990079/new_dxers_handbook_second_edition_optimized.pdf

The New DXer's Handbook, 2nd Edition, is also available as a free Amazon Kindle book in addition to online editions in Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, and Turkish (with other languages planned.)

It's also a worthwhile overview for experienced hams who might serve as Elmer's to newer DXers. ◆

Memories of SCDXC Pre-Meeting Restaurant Venues

I only recently learned the Roll 'N Rye Delicatessen Restaurant in Culver City closed its doors permanently on September 14, 2014, after over 40 years in business.

The SCDXC held many pleasant dinners at Roll 'N Rye when our monthly meetings were at Culver City's Syd Kronenthal Park. The eclectic Roll 'N Rye's site is now one of Panera Bread's largely-homogenized 1,600+ locations.

Roll 'N Rye's longevity was quite exceptional by restaurant industry standards. Two large-scale foodservice studies in 2012 separately found 90% of independent restaurants in the U.S. close within one year of opening. Of the 10% that make it past one year, 70% will fold within 3 to 5 years. But for the small number of independent restaurants that survive five years, 90% of these survivors have a life span of at least 10 years. The main culprit behind independent restaurant deaths: under-capitalized owners lacking resources to both purchase/open a restaurant and absorb losses while building a clientele (or misjudging neighborhood preferences.)

On a darker side, there's also evidence some independent restaurants intentionally will not remain in business very long: they were planned (to put it euphemistically) as an auxiliary business to a larger enterprise that has many cash-based transactions.

The recent closure of Choices Restaurant near our current meeting location at WEMS in Hawthorne, Choices' subsequent conversion into an El Salvadoran *pupuseria*, and the opening of King Kebab & Bakery across from WEMS on Rosecrans Avenue highlight the fluidity of independent restaurants.

If you wish to try the King Kebab restaurant near WEMS their menu currently is summarized as:

Sandwiches: $6-8; Salads: $7-10
Kebab plates: $8-13;
Rotisserie chicken: $5 (1/4); $9.25 (1/2)

Bottom line: Our dinner venues may change again, but may all your SCDXC pre-meeting dinners have pleasant memories.

— Diana Feinberg, AI6DF ◆

A request to support the 2016 South Sandwich / South Georgia Islands DXpedition: their chartered ship alone costs $310,000

Dear Southern California DX Club Members:

From N6HC & the Intrepid-DX Group:

As a follow-up to my presentation at the January DX Club meeting, I am writing to seek your sponsorship for a major DXpedition to South Sandwich and South Georgia Islands in January/February 2016. These islands are currently ranked by Club Log as the #4 and #9th most wanted DXCC entities. At the time of their activation one year from now, they will be #3 and #7 after Navassa and Heard Island are activated.

This is essentially two 10-day DXpeditions to two very remote and expensive islands to access. Our Vessel charter is in excess of $310,000 and our total expenses will be $425,000. We earnestly need the support of the global DX Community to make these activations a success. We will be QRV for eight full days from each island.

Here is more information: Website: http://www.intrepid-dx.com/vp8.

Exact dates: We depart for the islands on January 8th, 2016 and return on February 12th, 2016. We will activate South Sandwich first.

Number of members: 14 (Multi-national Team)
N6PSE-Paul, Team Leader; K3LP-David, Co-Leader;
N2WB-Bill; N6HC-Arnie-Team Physician; RA9USU-Dmitri; JH4RHF-Jun; K1LZ-Krassy;
K3VN-Al-Team Safety Officer; K9CT-Craig; WD5COV-David; K6TD-Kevin; K4ZLE-Jay; NA6M-Mark;
QSL manager / QSL route: QSL via N2OO

Budget estimated for DXpedition $425,000 USD total. (Boat charter is $310,000). Will be on 160M - 10M using CW, SSB and RTTY. We will work all HF bands/modes. We will make every effort to work the most difficult areas.

Landing & Camp permission has been granted. Initiating request Paul Ewing-Co-Leader, E-mail Address: paul@n6pse.com

How to Donate: Via PayPal to intrepiddxgroup@gmail.com or via check payable to:

Intrepid-DX Group
c/o David A Jorgensen CFO/Treasurer
18645 Cortez Road SE
Deming, NM 88030 USA

Your Club's logo on QSL cards? Yes (for donations of $250 or more)
Your Club's logo on web page: Yes (for all donations)

Thank you.

Sincerely:

Arnold I. Shatz, MD, FACS, N6HC
Paul S. Ewing N6PSE

Financial Support Requested for VK0EK Heard Island DXpedition

***Perhaps you have "Heard"*: An international group of radio amateurs will be activating Heard Island from Nov - Dec 2015, using the callsign VK0EK.**

We would like you to join us in making VK0EK happen. Your help and that of the entire DX community is essential to fund the expedition.

VKØEK
HEARD ISLAND EXPEDITION

Heard Island is one of the most isolated places on our planet: an active volcanic island mantled by glaciers amidst the vast, frigid waters of the Southern Ocean. *Heard Island is currently #6 on ClubLog and #5 on DX Magazine's Most Wanted List,* reflecting the many challenges of activating this entity: Gaining permission to visit Heard Island (a highly-protected World Heritage list location within a Marine Reserve), its extreme isolation and harsh subantarctic climate, and establishing in this environment multiple stations equipped to serve thousands of radio amateurs worldwide.

The Heard Island Expedition has radio, science and exploration goals, and the expedition is only made possible by the synergy between these elements, which together provide justification for a permit to visit and stay on Heard Island. Preparations for the DXpedition are progressing well. Permissions have been negotiated and the callsign issued. A team has been formed, ready to spend three weeks at Heard Island and make over 100,000 QSOs. Transport has been arranged aboard the Akademik Shokalskiy, a vessel with a proven track record of Antarctic expedition support . Details of the planned amateur radio activities can be found on our webpage at http://vk0ek.org/. The main website for the expedition is www.heardisland.org, where you can see the extraordinary and extensive planning and preparation for this difficult expedition, and many details about the team.

As you know, DXpeditions to Southern Ocean entities are expensive ventures, with monetary support graciously donated from international foundations, radio clubs, and individual DXers around the globe. Each DXpedition team member commits substantial personal funds up front, with the hope that the international DX community will in part share in this financial burden by the aid of direct donations, physical resources, or additional funding through online QSL services. The entire expedition budget is $800,000 (not including team travel to Australia, and accommodation and living expenses while there). On-island participants will be directly responsible for over half of the budget. ***We are requesting that individuals, Foundations and Clubs within the DX community provide sponsorship to VK0EK in order to partially offset our expenses. We hope your organization can help us with a substantial donation. As a special incentive for major supporters, an Angel Donor has agreed to match any donation of $1000 or more made prior to 31 March 2015 (subject to a maximum match of $50,000 total).***

The project is being organized and managed under the banner of Cordell Expeditions, a nonprofit research organization since 1981. The group is responsible for the Cordell Bank National marine sanctuary, more than 1000 new species and other biological records, and activations of numerous very difficult DXCC entities, including 3YØPI, XRØY/Z, VKØIR, XRØX, K7C, and TX5K. The group's experience and track record in delivering expeditions according to plan provides high confidence that the Heard Island Expedition and activation of VKØEK will succeed, and will be an exemplary operation.

Continued on next page ►

Financial Support Requested for VK0EK Heard Island DXpedition

►*Continued from previous page*

VK0EK Quick Facts

- DXpedition Destination: Heard Island, Australia.
- Most Wanted Ranking: 6 (ClubLog), 5 (DX Magazine).
- Permissions/licensing: We have received the callsign VK0EK. Landing permits are issued by the Australian Antarctic Division only a few weeks before departure so that they can check the vessel inspection, etc. However, the project has been discussed in detail with them for two years, and based on these discussions we expect issuance of the permit.
- Logistics and Transportation Costs:
  - $600,000 boat charter fees, $200,000 facilities, transportation, storage, fees; costs split between the radio and scientific functions.
  - Up-front costs to each expedition member - $18,000 after anticipated sponsorship (does not include any individual operator's flights or other travel expenses in Australia).
- Number of Operators and Their Credentials:
  - Currently signed up - KK6EK (expedition leader), K3EL (radio team leader), AE0EE, K2ARB, NP4IW,HB9BXE, WJ2O, UT6UD, VK6CQ , ZL3CW
  - The team has extensive experience DXpeditioning in the Antarctic region and elsewhere; KK6EK was leader of the 1997 VK0IR expedition to Heard Island.
- Number of Stations On-The-Air: At least six. A special operation at Spit Bay will provide better propagation to Western and Central US. Goals are to log as many ATNOs as possible, and satisfy the demand for band-modes.
- Bands/Modes/Duration of Operation: 160 - 10 m, CW/SSB/RTTY, approx. 20 days operating
- Equipment: K3s with power amplifiers at Australian legal limit; mixture of horizontal and vertical beams for high bands, verticals and separate receive antennas for low bands
- Pilot Stations: K6MM is chief pilot, will have world-wide network of pilots with reliable and rapid communication to the on-island team.
- QSL: Direct or bureau requests via website, LOTW
- Uploads:
  - DXA will provide real-time contact confirmation on the DXA website to reduce dupes and pirates
  - LOTW upload within 3 months after the DXpedition
- Support Committed and Requested: The team has already received a pledge of up to $50,000 as a matching gift for donations of $1000 or more. Grant applications have been made to amateur radio organizations such as NCDXF, INDEXA and GDXF, and to exploration/science organizations such as the Explorers' Club.
- Commitment to Sponsors:
  - Sponsors' logos will be displayed on the DXpedition website, and on QSLs, as requested
- Webpage for the radio operation http://vk0ek.org/ and for the entire expedition http://www.heardisland.org/
- Donation Address: Cordell Expeditions, 4295 Walnut Blvd., Walnut Creek, CA 94596 (checks payable to Heard Island Expedition)
- PayPal and bank transfer information at http://www.heardisland.org/HD_pages/HD_donations.html (please send check or use bank transfer, if possible, to avoid 7% PayPal fees)
- Please address any questions regarding sponsorship of VK0EK to the Radio Team Leader, Dave Lloyd, K3EL@earthlink.net or to the Expedition Leader, Dr. Robert Schmieder, KK6EK@cordell.org.

November 1, 2014

Dear Amateur Radio & DX Enthusiast,

Next year is the 66th consecutive year for the International DX Convention. The meeting, sponsored by the Northern California DX Club, will be held at the beautiful Visalia Convention Center in downtown Visalia, CA. IDXC, the premier DX Convention in the United States, is attended by over 800 serious DX'ers and contesters looking to improve their skills, their stations and see the latest equipment.

Convention Highlights:

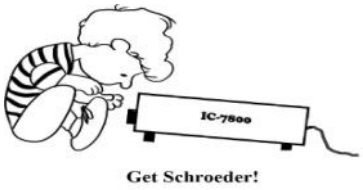
- Full day of training on Friday, April 17, 2015: Contesting and DXing Techniques
- Friday Evening Dinner Options: TopBand, IOTA, and Contesting
- Open DX Forum
- 15-20 DX & Technical Seminars
- 35-40 Exhibitors in large Exhibit Hall
- QSL Card Checking
- Great Raffle Prizes
- Eyeball QSOs w/DX Friends
- Excellent Keynote Speakers
- Access to great California vacation destinations (see description on website)
- Registration Starts: 12-08-2014
- Website: dxconvention.org

We intend to make IDXC 2015 the best DX Convention ever, and hope you'll be able to join us.

Sincerely,

John Miller, K6MM
Kevin Rowett, K6TD
Rich Seifert, KE1B
IDXC 2015 Co-Chairmen

For full details about the 2015 IDXC, visit : http://www.dxconvention.com



The 2015 Get Schroeder Contest Standings

By Bill Kendrick, N6RV

It is seven weeks into the new year and the competition is in full swing. At the top it is a slugfest. Each of the top three have stepped up their game. This weekend John, N6QQ, took a leap from 145 to 177 in the CQ WPX RTTY contest. Prior to this Dennis, NS6C, by sheer will power moved his count from 147 to 177. This jump was not attributable to any contest rather just daily slugging it out working everything in sight. Bill, N6RV, has been sidelined with the flu having been sick for four out of the seven weeks. In spite of that he has caught maybe 10 new ones including K1N on 20 slots, another contributor to his lack of Schroeder focus.

Look at the total count, 203 entities! Notice that no one has a corner on unique entities. In fact look at how many the top three are missing. 23 entities have been worked by only one competitor. Dennis leads with 7, Bill is next with 6, John with 3, and several down to K7MY, 15th place have 1 or 2. Yes, it is early in the year however given the diminishing solar conditions if we do not get them now it may be never.

Again John is doing the Schroeder. Smoke is flying from his tuning knob having worked a whopping 497 slots!!!! That is almost twice as many as Dennis. John let me in on a secret. Dennis is not really concentrating on the competition rather the DX Challenge so slots are not his emphasis. Regardless Bill is woefully behind. Hopefully the ARRL DX CW will pull everyone up! Game on!

Standings Column Description

Rank: Position in the standings

Call: If you do not know your call look for the one that seems familiar to you.

Count: Number of DXCC entities worked this year.

2015 Get Schroeder Standings

Total Entities Worked by Members: 203

Rank	Call	Entities	Missed	-QQ	Uniques
1	N6QQ	177	26	0	3
2	NS6C	173	30	4	7
3	N6RV	152	51	25	6
4	K0OK	104	99	73	2
5	K6IPV	80	123	97	0
6	WB6PSY	75	128	102	1
7	N6VNI	74	129	103	0
8	W6ENZ	68	135	109	1
9	KW6PMC	66	137	111	2
10	W8DX	65	138	112	0
11	SM5GMZ	61	142	116	2
12	ZL3TE	55	148	122	0
13	NK6A	54	149	123	0
14	K6FG	27	176	150	0
15	K7MY	20	183	157	2
16	N6RU	17	186	160	0
17	AI6Z	15	188	162	0
18	KM6HB	13	190	164	0
19	K6DDJ	11	192	166	0
20	W6SW	9	194	168	0
21	K6AFW	9	194	168	0
22	W6VX	8	195	169	0
23	WB6BFG	8	195	169	0
24	K6NQY	8	195	169	0
25	AC6DX	6	197	171	0
26	W6OU	3	200	174	0
27	KR6C	3	200	174	0
28	K6YUI	3	200	174	0
29	N6WIN	1	202	176	0
30	K6DXA	1	202	176	0

2015 Worked Matrix

1A0	4S	7Q	A3	CE9	E7	FK	GI	HS	KH0	LY	PJ5	SV9	TU	VK9C	VU	YV
1S	4U1ITU	7X	A4	CN	EA	FK/C	GJ	HV	KH1	LZ	PJ7	T2	TY	VK9L	VU4	YV0
3A	4U1UN	8P	A5	CO	EA6	FM	GM	HZ	KH2	OA	PY	T30	TZ	VK9M	VU7	Z2
3B7	4W	8Q	A6	CP	EA8	FO	GU	I	KH3	OD	PY0F	T31	UA	VK9N	XE	Z3
3B8	4X	8R	A7	CT	EA9	FO/A	GW	IS0	KH4	OE	PY0S	T32	UA0	VK9W	XF4	Z8
3B9	5A	9A	A9	CT3	EI	FO/C	H4	J2	KH5	OH	PY0T	T33	UA2	VK9X	XT	ZA
3C	5B	9G	AP	CU	EK	FO/M	H40	J3	KH5K	OH0	PZ	T5	UJ	VP2E	XU	ZB2
3C0	5H	9H	BS7H	CX	EL	FP	HA	J5	KH6	OJ0	R1F	T7	UN	VP2M	XW	ZC4
3D2	5N	9J	BU	CY0	EP	FR	HB	J6	KH7K	OK	S0	T8	UR	VP2V	XX9	ZD7
3D2/C	5R	9K	BV9P	CY9	ER	FR/G	HB0	J7	KH8	OM	S2	TA	V2	VP5	XZ	ZD8
3D2/R	5T	9L	BY	D2	ES	FR/J	HC	J8	KH8S	ON	S5	TF	V3	VP6	YA	ZD9
3DA	5U	9M2	C2	D4	ET	FR/T	HC8	JA	KH9	OX	S7	TG	V4	VP6/D	YB	ZF
3V	5V7	9M6	C3	D6	EU	FS	HH	JD1/M	KL7	OY	S9	TI	V5	VP8	YI	ZK3
3W	5W	9N	C5	DL	EX	FT5W	HI	JD1/O	KP1	OZ	SM	TI9	V6	VP8/G	YJ	ZL
3XA	5X	9Q	C6	DU	EY	FT5X	HK	JT	KP2	P2	SP	TJ	V7	VP8/H	YK	ZL7
3Y/B	5Z	9U	C9	E3	EZ	FT5Z	HK0/M	JW	KP4	P4	ST	TK	V8	VP8/O	YL	ZL8
3Y/P	6W	9V	CE	E4	F	FW	HK0/S	JX	KP5	P5	SU	TL	VE	VP8/S	YN	ZL9
4J	6Y	9X	CE0X	E5/N	FG	FY	HL	JY	LA	PA	SV	TN	VK	VP9	YO	ZP
4L	7O	9Y	CE0Y	E5/S	FH	G	HP	K	LU	PJ2	SV/A	TR	VK0H	VQ9	YS	ZS
4O	7P	A2	CE0Z	E6	FJ	GD	HR	KG4	LX	PJ4	SV5	TT	VK0M	VR	YT	ZS8

2015 Get Schroeder Contest Standings (details)

SCDXC GET SCHRODER STANDINGS 2015															
Rank	Call	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	Total	Slots	Yrs
1	N6QQ	0	0	0	55	50	79	66	97	59	91	0	177	497	58
2	NS6C	1	8	0	36	18	45	22	44	33	44	0	173	251	48
3	N6RV	1	1	0	18	3	57	16	70	12	43	0	152	223	47
4	K0OK	1	4	0	4	7	15	15	21	29	32	0	103	128	43
5	K6IPV	7	8	0	7	12	9	14	12	23	35	0	81	127	60
6	N6VNI	0	6	0	4	4	30	20	24	18	23	0	74	129	26
7	WB6PSY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	74	0	74	74	38
8	W8DX	2	2	0	29	7	10	9	3	16	12	0	65	90	58
9	W6ENZ	0	13	0	2	4	13	10	11	26	11	0	65	90	41
10	KW6PMC	1	2	0	9	3	14	8	19	28	8	0	64	92	2
11	SM5GMZ	0	2	0	36	0	36	0	51	0	16	0	61	141	46
12	ZL3TE	0	0	0	12	5	11	12	16	15	25	0	55	96	11
13	NK6A	0	0	0	5	1	25	1	29	2	38	0	54	101	70
14	K6FG	1	1	0	6	3	4	11	3	13	3	0	27	45	59
15	K7MY	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	6	0	17	0	20	28	38
16	N6RU	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	5	0	10	0	17	20	7
17	AI6Z	3	1	0	5	0	1	0	5	1	1	0	15	17	22
18	KM6HB	1	2	0	2	2	6	2	4	3	8	0	13	30	24
19	K6DDJ	0	1	0	5	0	7	0	7	0	5	0	11	25	20
20	W6SW	0	0	0	0	0	6	2	1	2	2	0	9	13	36
21	K6AFW	0	0	0	0	4	3	1	0	0	1	0	9	9	23
22	W6VX	0	0	0	2	0	4	5	1	2	0	0	8	14	36
23	WB6BFG	0	1	0	2	0	3	3	1	1	3	0	8	14	8
24	K6NQY	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	4	0	8	11	7
25	AC6DX	0	1	0	2	1	5	1	2	1	2	0	6	15	8
26	W6OU	0	1	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	0	3	13	52
27	KR6C	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	3	4	34
28	K6YUI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3	3	58
29	N6WIN	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	4	26
30	K6DXA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	2

DX Accomplishments

Celebrate the Successes of Our Fellow Members

Compiled by Bill Kendrick, N6RV

In the next few months after we update the membership roster we will be updating the DXCC Standings. If you have not renewed your membership do not be surprised if your count disappears from the standings. We are also removing our past members who are no longer with us.

W6OU has added his DXCC to the list. Welcome Jim!

Also honorable mention goes out to Don Quick (KW6PMC) and his wife Irene (N6PMC). You can read their story on their QRZ.com pages. It is refreshing to see new hams really take to the airwaves!

If you would like to update your standings please send the latest information to: **AI6DF@scdxc.org**.

SCDXC WAZ and DXCC Standings (N6RV)

The first WAZ column is the confirmed zone count on 10 bands 160 - 6 (less 60 meters). The second column is the regular 5BWAZ confirmed count. The following are the codes that follow the two columns and indicate the awards:

M	**Mixed**
P	**Phone**
C	**CW**
R	**RTTY**
5	**5 Band**

The first DXCC column is the confirmed entity count with deleted countries. The second column is the confirmed current entity count. **Those in tan are at the top of the current honor roll.**

WAZ STANDINGS

	10B / 5B	Awards
K6ND	378 / 200	M/5
W6SR	373 / 200	M/P/C//5
EU7A	360 / 200	M/5
WA5VGI	357 / 200	M/P/C/5
W8DX	357 / 200	M/5
N6AW	355 / 200	M/P/C/5
K6YRA	290 / 200	P/5
W6BCQ	280 / 200	M/P/5
WD6L	248 / 200	M/P/5
N6OU	220 / 200	M/5
K6UNR	/ 200	M/P/5
W6VX	352 / 199	
NS6C	198 / 198	
K6GXO	369 / 197	M
K6FG	363 / 197	M/P/C/R/5
SM5GMZ	349 / 196	M/P/C
W6ENZ	315 / 195	
AI6Z	320 / 194	M/P/C/5
N6MXU	155 / 193	
K6YUI	349 / 192	M/P/C/R/5
K2PLF	191 / 191	
N6RV	317 / 189	M/P/C
KC6X	294 / 187	M/P/C/5
N6QQ	325 / 186	M/P/C/R
K6LD	314 / 186	M/P/C
W6YOO	308 / 185	M/P/C/5
KH6DX/m	210 / 184	
K6KII	191 / 177	M
KH6MB	181 / 174	
K0OK	286 / 173	
K6SY	246 / 173	P
W6ZPL	237 / 173	M/P
KJ6Y	261 / 172	
KR6C	295 / 171	M/C
SM5GMZ	265 / 166	M/5
AD6KQ	226 / 164	
N6DHZ	234 / 161	P
W6DR	227 / 159	
NK6A	152 / 152	M/5
WB6PSY	139 / 140	P
N6HE	130 / 138	
WA6BOB	152 / 136	M
KT6LA	155 / 125	
K6IRD	154 / 126	M/P
W5DQ	161 / 122	
W3SE	102 / 112	
W6IRD	151 / 111	M/P
K6IRA	118 / 102	
K6VC	96 / 96	P
W6EA	92 / 86	
K7LA	111 / 84	
N6UC	78 / 78	M
KA6TTV	82 / 67	
N6VNI	86 / 64	
N6RRY	85 / 65	
N6GIL	49 / 43	
W6DCK	40 / 40	P
K6JW	40 / 40	M/P
K6YR	39 / 39	
W6DOE	39 / 39	
NZ6L	36 / 36	
W4EF	29 /	
KK6FJQ	25 / 25	
N6AWD		M
N6HC		M/P/C
KB6KTV		P
W6OES		M
K8RD		C

DXCC STANDINGS

K6KII	387 / 340
JA1BK	377 / 338
K6YRA	376 / 340
K6EXO	370 / 338
N6UC	367 / 340
W6BCQ	365 / 340
K6YUI	365 / 340
K6IPV	362 / 340
NS6C	360 / 340
W6HT	358 / 338
W6SR	358 / 340
WA6WZO	357 / 340
K8RD	356 / 340
K5KT	355 / 340
N6AW	355 / 337
K6FG	355 / 340
K6GXO	355 / 340
N6RV	355 / 339
K2PLF	354 / 340
W8DX	353 / 340
W6IRD	352 / 336
W6OES	351 / 334
W6AUG	350 / 340
N6QQ	350 / 334
W6OU	350 / 332
W6YOO	349 / 340
KC6X	349 / 340
W6KK	348 / 340
W6VX	348 / 340
WA5VGI	348 / 340
N6AWD	348 / 338
WB6PSY	348 / 337
AI6Z	348 / 336
K6ND	347 / 340
EU7A	347 / 339
W6OM	347 / 337
W6ENZ	347/ 338
N6HC	345 / 337
K6LD	344 / 338
KR6C	343 / 338
W6DCK	342 / 336
K6UNR	341 / 337
KB6KTV	340 / 335
N6MG	339 / 331
SM5GMZ	339 / 330
N6OU	338 / 330
W6BK	337 / 334
KM6HB	337 / 331
N6HY	333 / 329
K2IXQ	333 / 329
AD6KQ	328 / 328
W6FL	328 / 315
KJ6Y	327 / 323
W6ZPL	317 / 317
K6SY	312 / 310
K0OK	310/ 308
K6JW	309 /304
N6GP	308 / 303
W6HB	303 / 295
N6MXU	301 / 297
WD6L	295 / 295
NK6A	295 / 270
N6DHZ	292 / 288
K6IRA	286 / 286
W6DR	282 / 278
K6DJ	281 / 279
WA6WXD	275 / 272
K6DJ	274 / 272
K7MY	272 / 270
N7CQQ	268 / 266
K6VC	267 / 264
KT6LA	264 / 262
K6IRD	260 / 250
N6WIN	258 / 253
K6YR	244 / 244
W3SE	240 / 237
W6DOE	236 / 234
K6HCJ	235 / 235
W5DQ	225 / 220
N6VNI	223 / 223
KN6VF	223 / 223
ZL3TE	222 / 220
W6WVW	206 / 204
K6LX	204 / 204
WA6BOB	202 / 198
N6HE	192 / 185
N6RI	189 / 180
WB6PJC	157 / 157
W6EA	152 / 152
K6DDJ	152 / 152
KA6TTV	149 / 149
K6DJ	149 / 149
W6QE	148 / 148
K6OGO	142 / 142
K7LA	140 / 140
W4EF	132 / 132
WA6NOL	127 / 130
N6CA	131 / 131*
KK6FJQ	123 / 123
N6RRY	74 / 74
NZ6L	27 / 27

ClubLog Lifetime Standings

Here are the SCDXC DXCC Standings (including deleted countries) from ClubLog. The listing below shows all the members to date on our Club League. If you are on ClubLog and registered with SCDXC Club League and are a member showing up on the list in ClubLog let us know. We are working from the current roster. If you are not on ClubLog then get on and sign up for SCDXC Club League. You will then see your call in our standings! — *Bill Kendrick, N6RV* ◆

SCDXC DXCC STANDINGS 2015															
Rank	Call	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	Total	Slots	Years
1	K6YUI	129	201	0	312	308	362	330	341	312	324	17	365	2636	58
2	W6SR	178	267	0	320	296	352	318	343	283	329	62	357	2748	47
3	K6FG	144	238	0	329	328	351	332	339	315	326	33	355	2735	59
4	N6RV	64	153	0	265	89	342	118	308	64	265	74	355	1742	47
5	W8DX	39	246	0	333	300	347	322	330	267	306	6	352	2496	58
6	N6QQ	55	117	0	268	238	344	283	309	225	267	7	351	2113	58
7	W6OU	3	29	0	96	21	317	86	245	51	210	14	349	1072	52
8	WB6PSY	1	26	0	20	0	217	0	159	0	345	0	349	768	38
9	W6VX	164	252	0	319	297	348	332	323	301	312	9	348	2657	36
10	KR6C	129	135	0	216	177	308	218	263	172	185	1	343	1804	34
11	N6HY	126	198	3	294	280	332	302	298	240	246	23	341	2342	61
12	SM5GMZ	136	169	0	261	220	309	223	285	201	229	22	341	2055	46
13	W6ENZ	3	97	0	256	232	305	288	272	277	244	14	341	1988	41
14	KM6HB	7	134	1	193	113	292	183	278	182	238	14	337	1635	24
15	W6ZPL	3	107	0	168	11	301	161	252	113	203	0	334	1319	16
16	AI6Z	14	180	0	238	244	273	251	253	253	236	0	332	1942	22
17	W6SW	0	8	0	15	3	247	8	138	2	80	0	326	501	36
18	N6MXU	24	36	0	136	53	263	116	200	71	186	3	324	1088	28
19	NS6C	11	126	0	236	210	300	257	244	225	207	10	323	1826	48
20	K0OK	8	136	0	202	157	220	218	219	202	205	7	323	1574	43
21	W6DR	79	105	0	186	95	274	96	233	56	195	6	320	1325	34
22	N6WIN	25	124	0	218	139	269	197	237	133	205	1	316	1548	26
23	WB6BFG	22	91	0	159	200	296	268	275	234	213	15	313	1773	8
24	AC6DX	28	128	1	243	129	299	213	231	194	246	6	313	1718	8
25	NK6A	1	14	0	96	69	248	64	252	31	182	0	303	957	70
26	N6VNI	4	57	0	125	76	258	192	219	170	192	7	293	1300	26
27	N6DHZ	3	93	1	104	9	238	116	174	86	207	14	293	1045	26
28	N6GP	9	155	0	182	117	241	141	201	135	177	8	287	1366	25
29	ZL3TE	21	58	0	204	148	241	133	210	114	169	1	284	1299	11
30	K6IPV	39	63	0	124	146	166	194	161	163	155	12	279	1223	60
31	K6IRD	0	3	0	28	0	207	94	117	42	95	0	275	586	10
32	KT6LA	0	79	0	124	16	195	114	210	52	170	0	267	960	8
33	K7MY	0	11	0	68	28	192	126	180	93	129	4	267	831	38
34	NT6X	10	41	0	184	13	188	35	172	3	115	1	224	762	6
35	KW6PMC	2	6	0	28	10	146	119	135	98	99	2	220	645	2
36	K6AFW	2	7	0	48	4	145	16	5	3	177	1	201	408	23
37	NQ6L	0	5	0	30	0	124	2	104	1	27	2	171	295	7
38	K6DDJ	0	7	0	33	2	66	3	133	0	65	0	162	309	20
39	AD6LV	0	1	0	20	0	133	15	58	14	68	0	158	309	4
40	W6QE	0	1	0	21	0	76	4	57	0	65	0	149	224	20
41	K7LA	1	5	1	13	0	70	36	98	34	46	0	143	304	14
42	K6NQY	0	1	0	6	0	61	33	56	26	35	2	128	220	7
43	KK6FJQ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	123	1	123	124	1
44	K6DXA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	116	1	116	117	2
45	K6DSW	1	1	0	35	0	64	10	39	9	70	2	108	231	7

Upcoming DXpeditions….

By Bill Kendrick, N6RV

Well the K1N DXpedition is over and it was a monumental event indeed. See how SCDXC did with band slots later in the newsletter.

Remember the ARRL SSB DX Contest the second weekend of the month (March 7-8)! Since it is only two weeks after the CW contest many stations stay out for both and the 160 Meter contest in between so this is a fertile time to catch a lot of DX.

Also the WPX SSB contest is another great opportunity to increase your country count.

The big DXpedition as of this writing is TI9/3Z9DX. Hopefully many of have filled in a band slot or even an ATNO.

Useful DX Sites

The Daily DX
www.dailydx.com/

Announced DX Ops
www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html

DX Coffee
http://www.dxcoffee.com/eng/

DXing.info
/www.dxing.info/DXpeditions/

DX 425 News
www.425dxn.org/dxped/

Dx-info.de
www.dx-info.de

DX Italia DX News
www.marioi2mgp.it

DH9SB Weekly DX Calendar
http://www.dx-info.de

N0HR DXpedition Map
www.n0hr.com/wk34/

Blue Information indicate particularly rare entities;
Red information indicate SCDXC member attended DXpedition.

Call	QTH	Start Date	End Date	Information
4S7KKG	Sri Lanka	Now	10-Apr	DC0KK HF CW RTTY
FW5JJ	Wallis	Now		2 years
KG4	Guantanamo Bay	Now	6-Mar	W4WV (KG4WV) & W6HGF (KG4HF) All Bands SSB PSK RTTY CW
5Z	Kenya	Now	8-Mar	5Z4/DF3FS & 5Z4/DL9OLI 80-10M CW SSB
PJ7AA	St Maarten	Now	8-Mar	AA9AA
3G0Z	Juan Fernandez	Now	8-Mar	20 Ops 160-10M SSB PSK CW RTTY
5H1	Tanzania	Now	11-Mar	IK6CAC (5H1OC) & IV3FSG (5H1ES) HF
CE0Z	Juan Fernandez	Now	16-Mar	International Team
FP/KV1J	St. Pierre	Now	10-Mar	
PJ4F	Bonaire	Now	15-Mar	W5SK HF
9N	Nepal	18-Mar	30-Mar	SP2FUD SP9FIH SQ9CNN
9Q0HQ	Congo	Now	31-Mar	I2YSB IK2CIO IK2CKR IK2DIA IK2HKT JA3USA I1HJT f 160-6M CW SSB RTTY
7Q7	Malawi	11-Mar	1-Apr	160-6M CW SSB RTTY
C21EU	Nauru	25-Mar	4-Apr	PA3EWP DL6JGN DK2AMM DL2AWG 40-10M CW SSB RTTY
VU4I	Andaman	6-Mar	18-May	Ham Tech 2015

Propagation Report

What Happened Last Month and What to Expect This Month

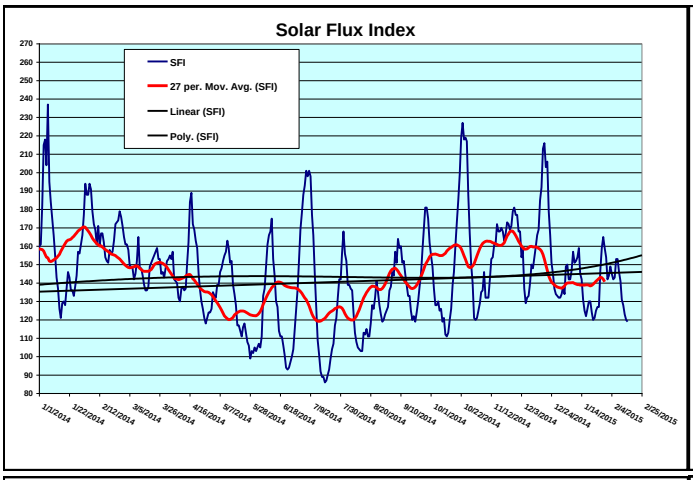
By: Bill Kendrick, N6RV

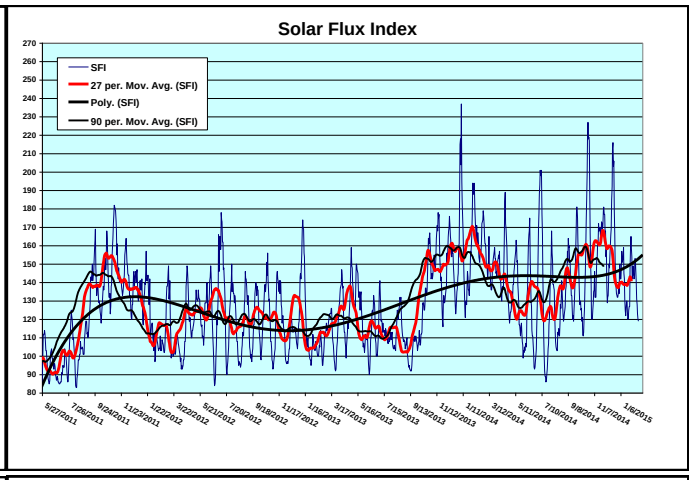
It seems the cycle is starting to decline. We are seeing fewer sunspots which translates into lower X-Ray and Flux output. There is another prophet of doom article on the subject submitted by John, N6QQ.

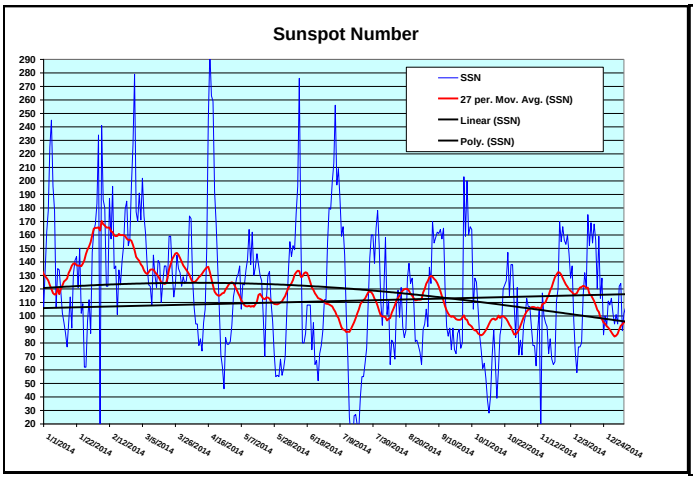
http://vencoreweather.com/2015/02/17/29475/

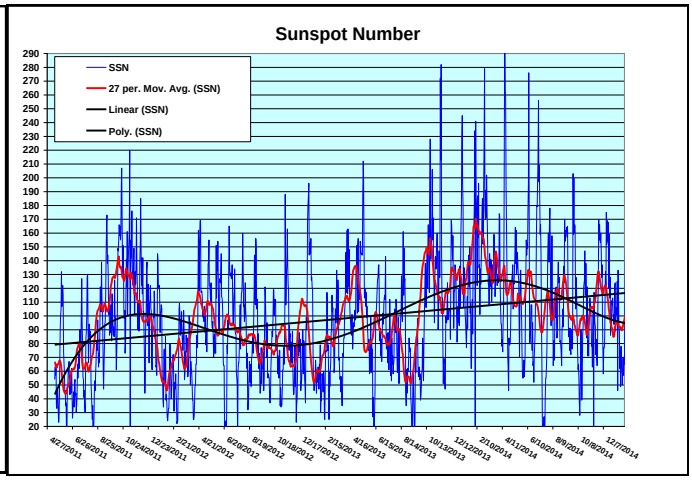
In a nutshell it says we may be heading into another protracted minimum lasting over several cycles. You know if you get enough people saying different things one will eventually be right. This one based his findings on the activity of last month. That is too short a period for most solar scientists. What can be said is the SFI did not come up this month, rather it fell further. This may be an indication that the best is past us.

Editor's Note: To see the detail in these charts, please use the magnification button in your PDF reader (i.e. Adobe Acrobat or the like).









A Tale of Two Dxpeditions...

By Bill Kendrick, N6RV

If you had your radios on at any time for the past month you would have noticed the mayhem that seemed to occupy all the bands. There were two DXpeditions to very rare locations, Iran and Navassa Island. In both instances the issues with poor operating practices and outright interference by individuals who should have never obtained a license was very evident. For the earlier there is always an uptick in errors when in the heat of battle with a precious new one. For the latter the conduct of individuals who believe anonymity is a secure environment to expose their true character is a reflection of the downward trend of society. It seems that anything goes and the law no longer constrains these offenders. It also demonstrates that obeying the law is not the primary reason for good conduct rather the morays of our society which shifted from considering the rights of others to the expectations of individual gratification exceeds all else takes precedence.

That said both DXpeditions brought a lot of excitement and fun to the DXing community. This article describes the differences between long haul DX and local DX and the challenges facing DXers in both cases.

Let's start by looking at the two DXpeditions.

...EP6T Iran

Amateur radio activity in Iran has been very limited since the Shah's fall in 1978. Currently the QRZ.com website shows only five licensees, one which was the limited operation at Kish Island this year, EP6T. In spite of this Iran

EP3KF	Kambiz Fahim, Tehran Iran
EP3NH	Naser Haghighat, Ir Iran
EP3RB	Reza Batebi, Tehran Iran
EP4HN	Nadi Noorbakhsh, Zargari Crossroads Iran
EP6T	Kish Island DXpedition IOTA AS166 The Rockall DX Group

is more active than during the Shah's rule. In fact EP3HF who is not listed on QRZ is active almost every day on 21.260 - 21.280 from 0600 - 1400z. Around 1300z he has worked US stations.
There is little on the internet regarding the current and past operators so let's look at the EP6T DXpedition. This DXpedition was conducted by the Rockall DX Group. From their webpage the journey began as group of IOTA operators who activated an island (more like a rock difficult to ascend) in France. The team graduated to a real DXpedition to the Congo in 2010 and they returned to the rock in 2011 to break the record for QSOs from that IOTA. In 2012 the team went out on another major DXpedition to the Congo, this time better equipped and in 2013 they operated near lake Tanganyika in Burundi as 9U4U. To say the least the team has worked well together and made commitments worthy to be named a very good DXpedition group. Early this year they set out to accomplish their greatest goal, operating from Kish Island, Iran in the Persian Gulf as EP6T.

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Tale of two DXpeditions...EP6T Iran

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The team consisted of ON4HIL, ON7RU, ON4IA, ON6CC, PA3EWP, ON4BR, ON4AHF, ON6DX, ON4AMX, SV1DPI. They were active from 17- 26 January 2015.

The EP6T website has great information on the trip and location. **http://www.rockall.be/** There is a description of the island on the DX News website. **http://dxnews.com/ep6t-kish-iran/** Below is summary of that website.

Persian Gulf Kish Island (Persian Gulf)
- 35.5 sq mi (91 sq. km) 15.5 km (9.62 mi.) X 7.5 km (4.6 mi.)
- Flat: 35m (115 ft.) - 40m (131) ASL
- West of the Straights of Hormuz 19 Km South of the mainland
- 145 mm (5.71 in.) average annual rainfall.
- Average temp 26.6 C (80 F)
- Population: 20,000
- A consumer paradise, Free Trade Zone, No Visa required
- One million tourists yearly.
- One of New York Times 10 most beautiful islands
- 4th top site to visit in South Asia.
- Rivaling Dubai in high scale construction, building big hotels and resorts directed to pull in Western and Asian tourists.

The team kept four stations running 24/7 except during official visits and

EP6T Equipment

Transceivers:
- 5 K3 Elecraft transceivers

Amplifiers:
- 4 expert 1K-FA Linear Amplifiers
- 1 homemade solid state PA (500w)

Antennas:
- **160m** 26m Vertical Beverage & Rx Loop
- **80m** Phased array
- **40m** 4 square
- **30m** Phased array
- **10m** - **20m** HEX beams Verticals
- **10m** 5 element Yagi

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Tale of two DXpeditions...EP6T Iran

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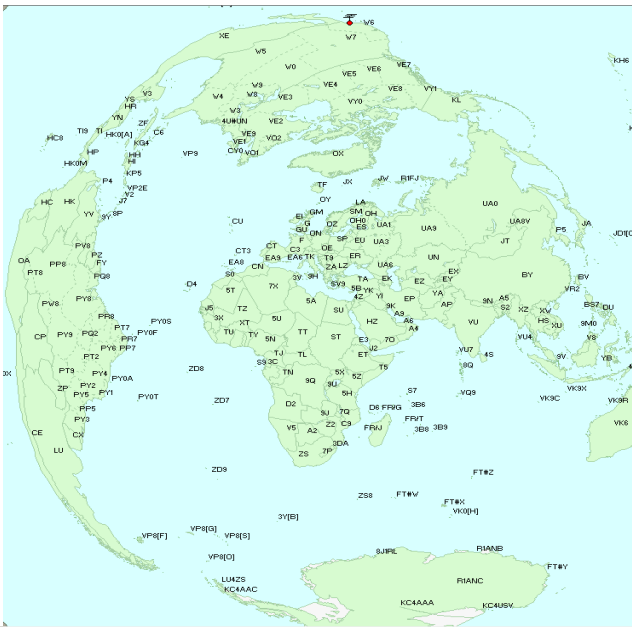
From the azimuth map it is obvious that the West Coast is one of the furthest locations from Kish.



Furthermore in order to work North America the operators had to go through Europe which proved to be a challenge. There were many repeated request for Europe to stand by so they could work North America.

Last but not least the window for the West Coast was very small. Fortunately we had opportunity to work them long path. The LP ham population between us and Kish is very small. This gave us the advantage that many needed to snag this rare entity.

Another contributing factor was the antenna height. 20 to 40 feet is adequate for short distances but stations with compromised antenna height are usually only able to work the larger long haul stations.

Compounding this was the local noise issue. Lower antennas seems to be more susceptible to this problem. They could not move. On the flip side the many Europeans thought that North America was given a leg up. Apparently the operators never called for Europe only, obviously because Europe was like working South America for us.

The statistics (right) tell the story. Out of the 178 members only 17 in Southern California made it into the log. Out that 17 only 8 worked them on more than one slot and only two worked them on three slots.

EP6T Stats	
Max QSOs by any Member	18
Max QSOs by Member in Southern California	3
Members Worked in Southern California	17
Members Worked Outside Southern California	7
Total Members Worked	24
QSOs by Members in Southern California	25
QSOs by Members Outside Southern California	58
Total QSOs by Members	83
Start Date	1/16/2015
Stop Date	1/27/2015
Days	12
QSOs	68044
QSOs/Day	5670
Stations	4
Qs/Station/Day	1418

Outside of Southern California is a different story. Will, K6ND, worked them on 18 slots including 160 meters. It shows that the East Coast had a big advantage. Obviously Europe had an advantage. Our European members worked them at least 10 times each. Kan, JA1BK, worked them 16 times. This advantage is primarily due to geography. They are all closer and their openings were longer. Consider this the next time you hear a Japanese station trying to work the Caribbean. It is a long haul!

Looking at the number of contacts by mode it is more than apparent that CW is the preferred mode for long-haul DX. It suffices to say that most of the single mode contacts were on CW. Southern California members did not catch him on RTTY. There was an opening on the last day and they were on RTTY. It was fleeting with only East Coast and Midwest stations enjoying the reward.

Members By Modes		
Mode	Mem	%
CW	20	11%
Phone	13	7%
RTTY	3	2%
1 Mode	15	8%
2 Modes	6	3%
3 Modes	3	2%

All in all we did poorly with only about 10% of the members in Southern California working them at all. All of the Southern California member contacts were made on 40 meters and 20 meters. Again this is the nature of the beast. We were coming out of a low solar activity period. At the end of the Dxpedition the SFI did rise to 165 however for most of the Dxpedition the SFI hovered around 120 to 130. Take this into consideration when Heard Island comes on. It is a tougher path and our openings may last only minutes on long path. Short path may be near impossible.

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Tale of two DXpeditions...EP6T Iran

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EP6T																																									
Call	6		10			12			15			17			20			30		40			80			160			Total			
	0	0	4	3	0	3	4	0	3	3	0	5	3	1	11	11	2	6	3	12	3	0	3	0	1	2	0	0	49	27	7	83
	CW	PH	CW	PH	TTY	CW	PH	TTY	CW	PH	TTY	CW	PH	TTY	CW	PH	TTY	CW	TTY	CW	PH	TTY	CW	PH	TTY	CW	PH	TTY	CW	PH	TTY	Total
K6ND			1	1		1	1		1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1			1			9	6	3	18
JA1BK			1	1		1	1		1	1		1	1		1		1	1	1	1	1		1		1				8	5	3	16
SM5GMZ			1	1		1	1			1		1	1		1	1		1											5	5	0	10
EU7A			1				1		1			1				1			1	1			1			1			6	2	1	9
N6MXU															1			1			1								2	1	0	3
N6RV															1	1				1									2	1	0	3
K6GXO																1				1									1	1	0	2
KM6HB															1					1									2	0	0	2
W6KH															1	1													1	1	0	2
K0OK												1								1									2	0	0	2
ON4UN															1	1													1	1	0	2
WA5VGI															1					1									2	0	0	2
OH2BH																1													0	1	0	1
NS6C															1														1	0	0	1
W8DX																				1									1	0	0	1
W6FL																		1											1	0	0	1
K6FR																				1									1	0	0	1
W6KK															1														1	0	0	1
K5KT																1													0	1	0	1
K6LPO																				1									1	0	0	1
N6QQ																1													0	1	0	1
K6QU																		1											1	0	0	1
K6UNR																1													0	1	0	1
W6VX																				1									1	0	0	1

Delving into the complete list of members that worked EP6T it becomes obvious that only the larger stations made it into the log. Again the low small antennas on their side made it nearly impossible for the small / medium stations to work them. There are some exceptions though. NS6C has a three element SteppIR at 40 feet. The rest have large arrays at a minimum of 65 to 70 feet.

Consider the FT5ZM Dxpedition to Amsterdam Island. They put their antennas up much higher and were situated at a high point on the island which fell off to the US. Sixty four members worked them. Twelve in Southern California worked them 10 slots or more with many small stations working them more than once. Amsterdam is much further away but has the distinction of being closer to our antipode. Sometimes signals pop up out of strange directions. Amsterdam Island Dxpedition was distinguished as the best operation of the year, well deserved.

Regarding the performance of the Kish team we can not fault them for our poor performance. Their operating skill was top notch and they gave us ample windows to work them, keeping Europe at bay. There was however the noise issue. For those with reasonable stations the contact should have been simple even on 40 meters. Many of the regulars in the South Bay who are not members worked them as many as four slots.

It would not be fair to leave this Dxpedition without addressing the psychological aspect of chasing a rare one with a small station. Having been on the other side of a pile up I know that usually the DX station hears the others much better than we hear the DX station. The feeling of inadequacy should not discourage the small station op from getting in and aggressively attacking. Having operated contests in the low power category sometimes with non-resonant antennas I have found that skilled operators can pull you out. You have to learn the techniques that give you an advantage, timing, calling on a clear spot, and persistence. If it were easy would we value it as much? The basic rule of thumb however still applies. If you don't hear them you can not work them. Think about putting in a good antenna system if you can. If you are restricted you can always guest operate.

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Tale of two DXpeditions...K1N Navassa Island 2015

The latest rare DXpedition assaulting the bands was Navassa Island. An exhaustive article describing the island and past operations was published in the February 2011 SCDXC Bulletin. You can still download it from the club website.

We all remember the huge pile ups. Imagine how you would be feeling if you were on the receiving end of the pile up in 117.0 F heat with no running water, only rain showers, eating MREs and a million grouchy couch potatoes complaining about the teams lack of efficiency or whatever? How about being told worst DXpedition ever? Well that has to be offset with the fact that the team pulled off a near perfect DXpedition even in the face of many challenges, high seas, and bad weather limiting the number of 100 mile one way helicopter trips and extending set up a couple of days. Do not forget the 35,729 hams who worked you an average of 4 times! 138,473 QSOs averaging 1417 QSOs per day per station. That is one contact a minute per station per day. Not bad! I am sure the high rate was around 1 contact per 15 seconds or so.

The team is a list of who's who in Big DXpeditions. All of them seasoned and raring to go again!

K4UEE	Bob	W0GJ	Glenn
AA7JV	George	K0IR	Ralph
K6MM	John	K9CT	Craig
HA7RY	Tomi	N2TU	Lou
N4GRN	George	N6MZ	Mike
NA5U	Mike	NM1Y	Jeff
W2GD	John	W6IZT	Gregg
WB9Z	Jerry		

As soon as the team touched down and a station was set up they were on the air. The first QSO was 2/1/2015 at 11:27z (3:27 AM PST), just their sunrise. Even while setting up the stations were manned as they came on line. No fewer than three were heard here every hour of every day. Initially they strung dipoles off of the lighthouse. These proved to be very effective. The Asian stations that caught them on 160 and 80 meters surely appreciated the 160 foot skyhooks! It wasn't too bad for us either. The lighthouse proved to be a good location so they used it for the stations.

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Equipment

Radios
8 Elecraft K3

Amplifiers
4 KPA 500 500 W
5 SGC 500 500 W
Two used to make the 160 KW

Antennas

5 SteppIR 2 El Yagis	10 - 20M
1 custom built 6 El Yagi	6M
4 Verticals	160 - 30M
Several Dipoles	160 - 10M
Beverages	160 - 80M
Receiving Loop	160 - 80M

Laptops for logging linked to a common server. Daily log uploads. Initially there were ongoing issues uploading logs to Club Log. I believe Club Log went off line several times to resolve the issue and possibly due to the increase in traffic caused by the Dxpedition. In other words they broke ClubLog!

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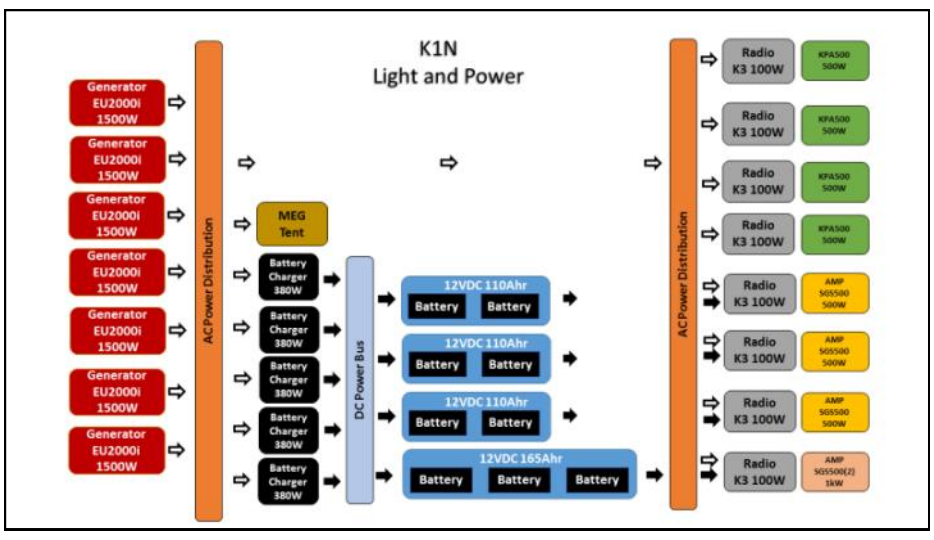
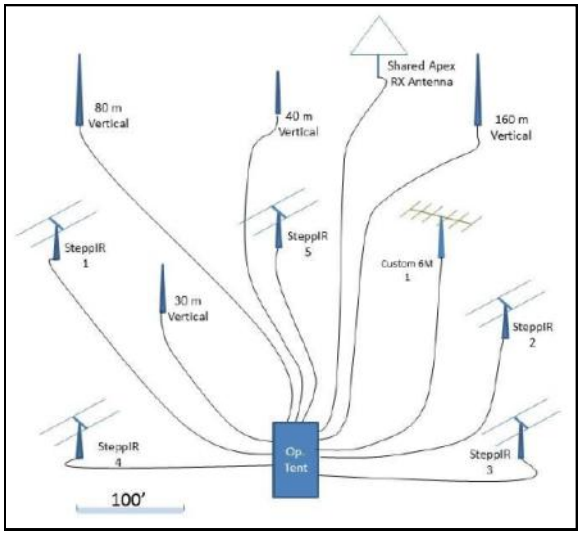
Tale of two DXpeditions...K1N Navassa Island 2015





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Tale of two DXpeditions...K1N Navassa Island 2015

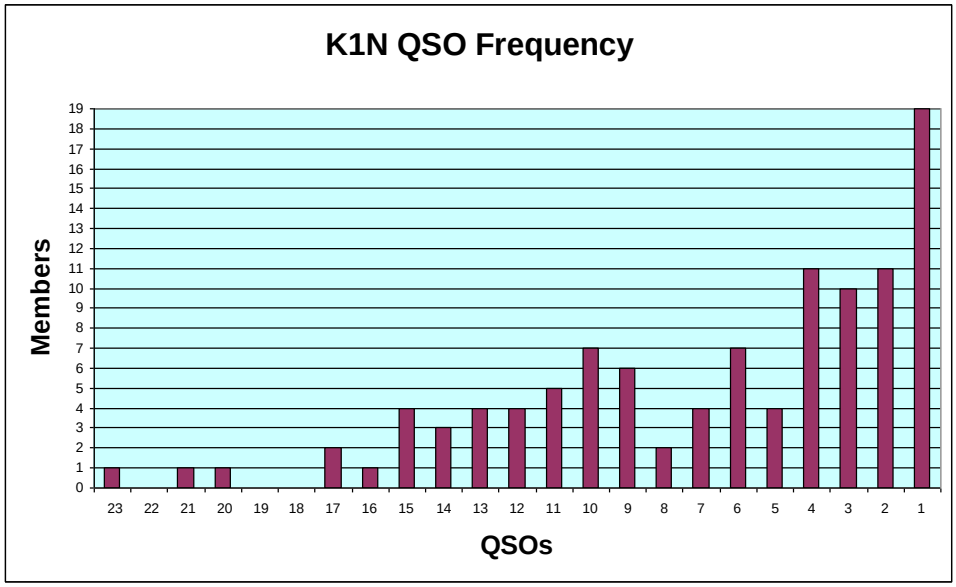
A whopping 60% (107) of SCDXC members worked K1N. More than half of those worked them 5 times. 31% worked them 10 times or more times. 10% (10) worked them 15 times or more. The maximum attainable slots was 26. Four were not worked from the West Coast. These were 2M FM, 6M SSB & CW and 60M SSB. Practically the probability of working K1N on these bands were nil from here. That said from all the members K6ND worked K1N the most hitting 23 slots which included 60 meters. In the state NS6C filled 21 slots missing 40 RTTY followed by N6RV with 20 slots missing 17 & 30 RTTY.

107 Members worked K1N 742 times and SoCal members worked him 619 times, an average of 6.4 QSOs per member.

From the continent totals below it is obvious that Navassa is in the United States and Canada's back yard. The distance to the West Coast is 2900 miles which is not much shorter than Europe's distance at 5500 miles. Again it suffices to say that the majority of contacts in the US were East Coast. Certainly the ratio of contacts with stations past the Rockies with the total US / Canada contacts would be on the order of the ratio of European contacts to North American, about a third. Almost 90% of the QSOs were from North America and Europe. Surprisingly South America only garnered 2.3% lower than Asia at 5.8%. It would be interesting to see the percentages weighted by the number of hams in those regions. Obviously the most dense populations of hams is Europe, Asia, and North America. When a once in a lifetime country comes up on the bands everyone wants to work them so it makes sense the higher density areas yield more contacts particularly when they are close.

K1N Stats	
Statistic	**Number**
Max QSOs by any Member	23
Max QSOs by Member in Southern California	21
Members Worked in Southern California	96
Members Worked Outside Southern California	11
Total Members Worked	107
QSOs by Members in Southern California	619
QSOs by Members Outside Southern California	97
Total QSOs by Members	716
Start Date	2/2/2015
Stop Date	2/15/2015
Days	13.5
QSOs	138371
QSOs/Day	10243
Stations	7
Qs/Station/Day	1417

Continent By Band														
Band	**160**	**80**	**60**	**40**	**30**	**20**	**17**	**15**	**12**	**10**	**6**	**2**	**Total**	**%**
AF	10	33	4	57	33	267	93	159	93	119	1	0	869	0.6%
AN	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.0%
AS	31	217	0	1001	496	1293	449	1522	1261	1787	0	0	8057	5.8%
EU	1451	2545	14	5023	3216	12173	3178	7673	4069	4688	1	0	44031	31.8%
NA	3873	7346	389	8576	5012	19243	7666	12955	5726	10257	57	29	81129	58.6%
OC	12	40	0	153	88	409	55	214	62	160	0	0	1193	0.9%
SA	44	125	4	248	117	642	268	708	247	615	173	0	3191	2.3%
Totals	5421	10306	411	15058	8962	34029	11710	23231	11458	17626	232	29	**138473**	



Multi Slot QSOs					
Slots	**Mem**	**%**	**Cum**	**%**	**%**
25	0	0%	0	0%	0%
24	0	0%	0	0%	0%
23	1	1%	1	0.9%	1%
22	0	0%	1	0.9%	1%
21	1	1%	2	1.9%	1%
20	1	1%	3	2.8%	2%
19	0	0%	3	2.8%	2%
18	0	0%	3	2.8%	2%
17	2	1%	5	4.7%	3%
16	1	1%	6	5.6%	3%
15	4	2%	10	9.3%	6%
14	3	2%	13	12.1%	7%
13	4	2%	17	15.9%	10%
12	4	2%	21	19.6%	12%
11	5	3%	26	24.3%	15%
10	7	4%	33	30.8%	19%
9	6	3%	39	36.4%	22%
8	2	1%	41	38.3%	23%
7	4	2%	45	42.1%	25%
6	7	4%	52	48.6%	29%
5	4	2%	56	52.3%	32%
4	11	6%	67	62.6%	38%
3	10	6%	77	72.0%	44%
2	11	6%	88	82.2%	50%
1	19	11%	107	100%	60%
0	70	40%	177		100%

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Tale of two DXpeditions...K1N Navassa Island

Here is the complete listing of the K1N contacts by club members. Note the ones in RED are out of the area

SCDXC Members																																								
Call	6		10			12			15			17			20			30		40			60	80			160			Total			
	0	0	27	63	6	48	0	8	34	63	10	41	23	13	64	72	15	41	17	43	32	5	1	36	27	0	27	0	0	361	281	74	716						
	CW	PH	CW	PH	TTY	CW	PH	TTY	CW	PH	TTY	CW	PH	TTY	CW	PH	TTY	CW	TTY	CW	PH	TTY	PH	CW	PH	TTY	CW	PH	TTY	CW	PH	TTY	Total						
K6ND			1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1			9	7	7	23						
NS6C			1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1		1			9	6	6	21						
N6RV			1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		1	1	1		1	1		1			9	6	5	20						
N6HC			1	1		1			1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		1	1			1	1		1			9	6	2	17						
N6MXU				1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1				1	1		1			8	4	5	17						
K6LPO				1	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1						1			7	5	4	16						
K6GXO			1	1		1			1	1		1	1		1	1		1		1	1			1	1		1			9	6	0	15						
N6QQ			1	1		1			1	1		1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1								7	4	4	15						
WA5VGI			1	1		1			1	1		1		1	1	1		1		1	1			1	1		1			9	5	1	15						
W6VX						1			1			1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1		1	1		1			8	4	3	15						
NK6A			1	1		1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1										7	4	3	14						
W6BK			1	1		1			1	1		1	1		1	1		1		1				1	1		1			9	5	0	14						
K6IPV			1	1		1			1	1		1	1		1	1		1		1	1			1			1			9	5	0	14						
KR6C				1		1			1	1		1		1	1	1		1		1	1			1			1			8	4	1	13						
KM6HB			1	1		1			1	1	1				1	1			1	1				1	1		1			7	4	2	13						
W6KH			1	1		1			1	1		1	1		1	1		1		1	1				1					7	6	0	13						
KJ6Y			1	1		1			1	1		1			1	1		1			1			1	1		1			8	5	0	13						
K6FG			1		1			1				1					1	1	1		1	1		1	1		1			5	2	5	12						
W6FL			1	1		1				1		1	1			1	1	1	1	1				1						6	4	2	12						
N6HY				1		1						1		1	1	1		1	1	1	1			1	1					6	4	2	12						
AA6PW			1	1		1			1	1			1		1	1		1	1	1					1					6	5	1	12						
WB6BFG			1	1		1			1	1		1	1		1	1	1			1										6	4	1	11						
N6CA			1	1		1			1	1		1			1			1		1				1			1			9	2	0	11						
EU7A			1			1			1		1	1			1	1		1		1				1			1			9	1	1	11						
W6SR				1		1				1	1	1			1	1		1		1				1			1			7	3	1	11						
K6YUI				1		1				1		1		1	1	1		1	1	1				1						6	3	2	11						
OH2BH			1	1					1	1					1	1				1	1			1	1					5	5	0	10						
W8DX				1		1			1			1			1	1		1	1	1				1						7	2	1	10						
K6QU				1		1			1	1		1	1		1	1		1		1										6	4	0	10						
ON4UN			1	1					1	1					1	1	1			1	1						1			5	4	1	10						
K6VC			1	1		1				1			1			1		1		1				1			1			6	4	0	10						
AI6Z				1		1				1		1				1		1		1	1			1	1					5	5	0	10						
DJ9ZB						1			1	1		1			1	1		1	1					1			1			7	2	1	10						
WU6D				1		1				1		1				1		1		1				1			1			6	3	0	9						
W6DR						1						1			1	1		1		1	1			1			1			7	2	0	9						
K6JW			1	1		1			1	1					1	1		1		1										6	3	0	9						
NN6L				1		1			1			1			1			1		1				1			1			8	1	0	9						
K7MY				1		1			1	1		1		1	1	1		1												5	3	1	9						
N6PEQ			1	1		1				1	1	1	1		1	1														4	4	1	9						
N6HD				1		1				1					1	1		1		1	1									4	4	0	8						
K0OK			1			1			1			1			1			1		1							1			8	0	0	8						
K2IXQ				1		1				1		1			1				1	1										4	2	1	7						
W6OES			1	1		1			1	1					1	1														4	3	0	7						
WA6URY				1		1				1					1			1		1				1						5	2	0	7						
N6VOH				1		1				1					1	1				1					1					3	4	0	7						
W6BCQ				1						1			1			1					1				1					0	6	0	6						
JA1BK																		1	1		1			1	1		1			3	2	1	6						
N6EV						1				1		1			1	1					1									3	3	0	6						
N6GP				1		1				1					1		1							1						3	2	1	6						
N6RI				1					1						1	1		1		1										4	2	0	6						
K6YRA				1						1			1			1					1					1				0	6	0	6						
K6ZZ			1					1	1						1		1	1												4	0	2	6						
K6AWB				1						1						1					1					1				0	5	0	5						
AD6DK				1						1						1				1						1				1	4	0	5						
N6IC						1				1		1		1					1											2	1	2	5						
K8RD						1						1			1	1								1						4	1	0	5						
N6AA															1						1			1			1			3	1	0	4						
KA6D				1						1			1			1														0	4	0	4						
K6FR				1						1					1	1														1	3	0	4						
K6IRD				1						1						1					1									0	4	0	4						
W6IRD				1						1						1					1									0	4	0	4						
W6KK										1		1			1	1														2	2	0	4						
W6QE				1						1					1	1														1	3	0	4						
W6SW										1		1			1	1														2	2	0	4						
K6SY				1						1											1					1				0	4	0	4						
N6UOZ				1						1						1					1									0	4	0	4						

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Tale of two DXpeditions...final thoughts

►*Continued from previous page*

So we have seen two very different but very rare DXpeditions. The chief difference is in one case we were low man on the totem pole and the other we ruled the roost. What can we take away from these experiences?

First, do not let the bad behavior of a few destroy the challenge and fun of our hobby. The best thing to do is ignore them. At best we can identify the local offenders and turn them in. For those who mistakenly end up on the DX stations frequency cut them some slack. How many times have you accidently done it? I think I heard everyone in my area at least once if not more… including me. Finally do not break down and become one of them. If it is too frustrating then turn the radio off. When the impulse to yell at someone arises let it pass. How many times did we hear someone make a lame remark followed by a cascade of others which turned into a shouting match on the stations frequency. It may feel good to do but it only accomplishes what these band terrorists want, to disrupt the DXpedition and irritate the community.

Second, cut the DXpedition some slack. They schlepped tons of equipment thousands of miles to set up, they live in a pretty austere if not hostile environment and spent a ton of their own money doing it. Why? It is their way of enjoying the hobby. Even if the operators are novices to DXpeditions which these two groups are not, they deserve our respect for even showing up. Certainly do not post complaints on the DX Cluster. That is as bad as the jammers and cops.

Third, know the propagation. At the beginning of a DXpedition it takes time the DX station to acclimate to the unusual paths and propagation. That is why when they are not hitting our openings a short note to the pilot stations always helps. Be sure to include your thanks for their effort. DX Summit now has propagation predictions using VOCAP built into it. A warning should follow. Do not presume that the propagation charts are hard and fast rules determining when a band is open. This are probabilistic models. The best way to understand the propagation to a region is to listen and check for other stations on the DX Cluster that are in the same area of regard.

Fourth, learn how to navigate a pile up. Even for the most seasoned DXer to figure out the pattern used by operators in these two DXpeditions were near impossible. First, there were people who never stopped calling. You wonder if they ever listened. It was obvious they didn't hear the DX station was calling someone whose call had no similar letters or numbers. To have to tune through the band and find the caller was near impossible. Then to discern his pattern from that was near impossible. Two methods come to mind. First, find a hole. Look for a frequency near where the last station was worked and call there. Second, work the edges. When there is a long pause by the DX station he usually is tuning to his start point at the top or bottom of the band. Try calling just above or below the whole pile up. In all cases try to time your call when no one else is calling on your frequency. That works really well. If you have a scope you can see the activity drop and jump in. If you have a high clear voice you have a distinct advantage. For this reason women in phone pile ups rule. One big lesson learned by the DXpedition operators is to turn off all processing on SSB. The distortion killed the pile up. Finally, nothing beats persistence. Hang in there. It is always a surprise to be called by the DX stations particularly when you are in the middle of the pile up with thousands calling. One real neat trick is hang around the DX stations frequency when he takes a break. The longer the better. I have sat for an hour waiting for the stations return. When he did there were three people calling and you could pick him off in short order. A corollary to that is if you come across the station calling CQ for the first time call him immediately. Do not think whether he is real or not. Work him first worry later.

Fifth, this is for newbies to CW. Get a good code simulator and increase your proficiency. Morse Runner is a great application. It simulates pile ups, noise and lids. Eventually all those things that irritate you fall to the background. It is a fun way to improve your skills almost as good as DX contesting. Learning the code is both rewarding and beneficial to chasing DX. If things go on as they have in a few years there will be few CW operators left.

I hope this article was informative and helpful in your pursuit of DX. ◆

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Date _____

Name _____ Birthday (MM) _____ Call Sign _____

Spouses Name _____ Birthday (MM) _____ Call Sign _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Home: (_____) _____ - _____ [ ] Do not list in club directory

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Have you confirmed 40 CQ Zones? Not yet: [ ], Yes [ ], I have a WAZ certificate: [ ].
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Jan 1, 2015

For sale: EME dishes and supports at very reasonable prices

Any interest in acquiring some Earth-Moon-Earth antenna dishes and supports?

Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club member Brian Tilley, KA6UHM, is offering any of his three 3-meter antenna dishes and associated supports at reasonable prices to interested SCDXC members. Brian has been interested in EME for some time but for physical reasons is unable to continue operating with this mode.

Brian's three dish antennas are each 3-meters in diameter (that's a 9-foot, 10-1/8 inch diameter to consider for moving purposes). The three dishes and supports are currently on the ground in his backyard.

- Dish 1 is an all-meter 3-meter dish originally used by Western Electric. There's also a collection of angle-stock intended to be used for assembling a support framework.

- Dish 2 is a 3-meter fiberglass dish with a fine metal mesh acting as the reflector surface. This dish has a triangular framework that converges where the antenna would be mounted and a metal pipe that holds the entire assembly.

- Dish 3 is another 3-meter fiberglass dish with fine metal mesh surface providing the reflector surface using a similar support as Dish 2.

All three dishes are in the backyard at Brian's Rancho Palos Verdes home and sold as-is. For further information please contact Brian, KA6UHM, at: tilleybj2@yahoo.com

Your SCDXC Newsletter Editor has personally seen these antenna dishes and the descriptions shown above have been verified.◆

Above: Dish 1 is a Western Electric 3-meter diameter metal dish antenna, shown in Brian KA6UHM's backyard.

Above: Dish antennas 2 and 3 are made of fiberglass epoxy with an embedded metal mesh as the reflecting surface, also shown in Brian KA6UHM's backyard. The second fiberglass dish antenna is underneath the top one. Some of the angle stock that holds these dishes is shown in foreground.

PHOTO:S BRIAN TILLEY, KA6UHM

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Date and Times - Third Thursday of every month, @ 6 P.M. unless otherwise noted. Pre-Registration is requested and preferred. Walk-ins are welcome.

2015 TESTING SESSIONS

Thursday, January 15th, 2015 6 p.m.
Thursday, February 19th, 2015 6 p.m.
Thursday, March 19th, 2015 6 p.m.
Thursday, April 16th, 2015 6 p.m. NOTE: Location change –this date only
(Home of George N6VNI, 1901 W. El Portal Drive, La Habra, CA 90631)
Thursday, May 21st, 2015 6 p.m. NOTE: Location change – this date only
(Home of George N6VNI, 1901 W. El Portal Drive, La Habra, CA 90631)
Thursday, June 18th, 2015 6 p.m.
Thursday, July 16th, 2015 6 p.m.
Thursday, August 20th, 2015 6 p.m.
Thursday, September 17th, 2015 6 p.m.
Thursday, October 15th, 2015 6 p.m..
Thursday, November 19th, 2015 6 p.m.

On Exam Day Bring the Following Items

- A legal photo ID (driver's license, passport) or Two forms of non-photo ID; e.g., birth certificate, social security card, library card, utility bill or other business correspondence with name of the examinee as it appears on the Form 605 and current mailing address.
- Your Social Security Number (SSN) or FCC-issued Federal Registration Number (FRN).
- If applicable, the original and a photocopy of your current Amateur Radio license and any Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) you may have from previous exam session. (Photocopies will not be returned.)
- Two number two pencils with erasers, and a pen.
- A calculator with memory erased and formulas cleared (no iPhones, iPads, etc.).
- Test Fee: $15.00 (cash or check).

If you fail an element and wish to retake it, we are required to charge an additional test fee. If you pass an element, we typically offer and encourage you to take the next element. We do not charge an additional test fee for this and it gives you the opportunity to see what the next exam element is like!

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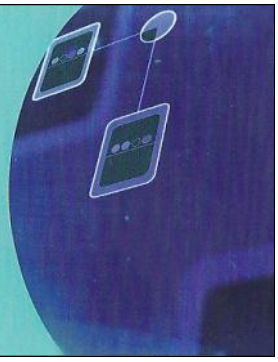

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